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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The Tito regime would surely have fallen during 1951 if the West, had not helped out morally and materially to overcome the consequences of the economic crisis at the end of 1950.

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2. The Yugoslav Communist Party has from 400,000 to 500,000 members but only about ten per cent of these are well indoctrinated. The remainder are opportunists who will always be with the group which has the best chance of success. About 80 per cent of the true Communists are pro-Cominform. The pro-Cominformists have been intimidated by the regime's actions against them, and they no longer expose themselves as they did at the beginning of the Tito-Cominform split. Individual Cominform sympathizers are being ousted from the Party and from their jobs. If an organized Cominform group is detected, the action against them is drastic. a revolutionary movement by Cominform sympathizers in Yugoslavia does not have the remotest chance for success. the regime will fall only through intervention by the Soviet Union, or a revolt by the masses during an economic crisis similar to the one in 1950 if the regime receives no help from the West.

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3. If war between the Soviet Union, her satellites and Yugoslavia came, the Yugoslav population would not participate. The peasants would not fight for a regime which has deprived them of liberty, land, and personal safety.

4. Tito and other Communists fear war because they are certain that they will be finished, regardless of which side wins. Leading Communists fear also that the United States and the Soviet Union might come to some agreement which would leave Tito isolated. This fear will force Tito to go all out for the West if he is asked to do so.

5. Few people in Yugoslavia believe that the Army will fight effectively if there is an invasion by the Soviet Union. Most people believe that the Army will immediately disintegrate, and that the population will not do anything to provoke the Soviet occupying authority to apply reprisals or mass deportations. If Yugoslavia were to find itself at war against the West and the United States, practically all units would march to join the Western forces.

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6. The Yugoslav population has placed its hope in the coming of war as the only way in which Communism in Yugoslavia can be defeated and liberty restored in Yugoslavia and the rest of the world.

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7.

Tito and his friends cannot return to the Soviet orbit, not because they would not like it, but because they know they would not be accepted. Furthermore if they were accepted, it would be under conditions in which they would forfeit their lives sooner or later. The same applies to the rank and file of the Yugoslav Communist Party who have allied themselves with Tito. If Yugoslavia returned to the Soviet bloc, all such persons would certainly be looked upon with distrust, and the Soviet Union would take steps to prevent their defection in the future.

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11. The unpopular policies of the Tito regime have created stronger monarchist sentiment than has ever existed before. The sentiment in Serbia, both among the peasants and the intelligentsia, is overwhelmingly for the monarchy. Royalist sentiment has also increased in Slovenia and Croatia, not because the people are in favor of the monarchy, but because they believe it would be better than the present regime.

12. The Tito regime has not had much success in allaying ethnic antagonisms in Yugoslavia. By appointing Serbs to positions in Croatia and by appointing Croatians to positions in Serbia, ethnic antagonism has been artificially promoted so that the regime could appear as just arbiter in national disputes. The Serbs complain that the regime is intentionally trying to weaken the position of the Serbian majority by dividing Serbian land into five or six units or sub-units. The Croatians complain that the whole Communist calamity is the responsibility of the Serbs.

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Economically, Slovenia has been most favored by the regime. In Slovenia are located most of the small businesses, hotels, and other establishments.

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13. Rumors of secret trade with the Cominform countries, especially Rumania, have been started by anti-Communists. There is no direct trade with those countries. If there were, it could not be hidden from Centroprom. There is a possibility, however, of indirect trade where private firms, created specifically for the task, might resell items brought from, or destined for, Yugoslavia. All direct commercial relations with the Cominform countries have ceased.

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